

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 02316 211332Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /089 W
-----065204 212048Z /15

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1575
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2316

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IS, JO
SUBJ: REPORTS OF ISRAELI-SPONSORED ALTERNATES TO WEST BANK MAYORS

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS AUGUST 18, MAYORS QAWASIMA (HEBRON) AND MULHIM (HALHUL) STRONGLY CONDEMNED FORMER JORDANIAN MINISTER MUSTAFA DUDIN'S RECENTLY ESTABLISHED UNION OF VILLAGES OF THE HEBRON DISTRICT.
 2. QAWASIMA CHARGED THAT DUDIN'S EFFORT WAS BEING FINANCED BY THE MILGOV WITH AN IL 1.2 MILLION GRANT TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE URBAN MAYORS. THE MAYOR SAID DUDIN'S ORGANIZATION WAS CLEARLY POLITICAL SINCE IT PLANNED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPRESENTING THE POLITICAL INTERESTS OF THE VILLAGE COUNCILS AND SUPERVISING ELECTIONS FOR THOSE COUNCILS. GOI PLANS CALLED FOR A SIMILAR ORGANIZATION IN NALBUS, PERHAPS DIRECTED BY ABDUL-RAOUF AL FARIS, THE MAYOR SAID.
 3. QAWASIMA PREDICTED DUDIN'S EFFORT WOULD
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 02316 211332Z

FAIL. OF THE 15 FOUNDERS, FOUR HAD ALREADY WITHDRAWN, HE SAID, AND MORE WOULD BUT FOR FEAR OF MILGOV RETALIATION. QAWASIMA SAID A SHEIKH HAD PREACHED AGAINST THE UNION IN HEBRON'S MOSQUE LAST FRIDAY AND WAS TRANSFERRED BY THE MILGOV TO HETHLEHEM WITHIN A FEW DAYS. LIKEWISE, A PRINCIPAL WHO WITHDREW FROM THE UNION HAD BEEN DEMOTED AND TRANSFERRED TO A SCHOOL 60 KMS FROM HIS HOME.

MULHIM SAID THE UNION WOULD BE CONDEMNED IN HALHUL MOSQUE
AUGUST 18.

4. MULHIM SAID DUDIN WAS DERIVING SOME SUPPORT FROM
FARMERS BECAUSE OF HIS FORMER ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN.
(COMMENT: JORDAY CONTROLS THE MAJOR EXPORT MARKET
FOR WEST BANK PRODUCE.) QAWASIMA CLAIMED HE HAD WRITTEN
A REPORT TO GOJ PRIMINISTER BADRAN WHOSE REPLY DENIED
ANY GOJ INVOLVEMENT. MULHIM SAID HE HOPED A PUBLIC ANNOUNCE-
MENT WOULD BE MADE BY THE GOJ TO THAT EFFECT SOON.

5. DURING MEETING WITH DUDIN LAST WEEK, BRITISH CONSUL
(SEDDON) TELLS US HE MET REPRESENTATIVE FROM GOI MININT
WHO HAD SHOWED UP TO GO OVER PUBLICATION ANNOUNCING GOALS
OF NEW ASSOCIATION. SAYING ONLY THAT MONEY WAS BING RAISED
FROM MEMBERSHIP, DUDIN DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAILS OF FUNDING
WITH CONSUL.

6. COMMENT: THE GOI PROBABLY BELIEVES THAT, IF IT COMES
TO AUTONOMY, VILLAGERS WILL BE MORE AMENABLE THAN URBANITES.
THEY MAY BE RIGHT. ABDULRA'OUF AL FARIS, SPOKESMAN OF
VILLAGERS IN THE NABLUS AREA, SUPPORTED SADAT'S INITIATIVE.
THE NABLUS MUNICIPALITY DID NOT. DUDIN'S
ASSOCIATION SEEMS DESIGNED TO GIVE A SIMILAR VOICE TO THE
RURAL POPULATION AROUND HEBRON. DUDIN IS SO DISCREDITED
LOCALLY, WE DOUBT HE WILL HAVE MUCH SUCCESS, IN ANY CASE.
A NEGATIVE FROM JORDAN WOULD PROBABLY BE DECISIVE.
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PAGE 03 JERUSA 02316 211332Z

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